IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An operating unit to generate a flow of air under pressure in aerosol therapy appliances, the operating unit comprising:

a pump group which includes a head, an electric motor and a fan; and

a body enclosing said pump group and formed by a bottom shell and a top shell, said bottom shell having a bottom shell edge, said top shell having a top shell edge, one of said bottom shell and said top shell being superimposed on to the other one of said bottom shell and said top shell to close said body on a transversal plane, said transversal plane being on a level with said bottom shell edge and said top shell edge, said bottom shell edge and said top shell edge being formed to self-center one of said top shell and said bottom shell with the other one of said top shell and said bottom shell, said head having an air outlet duct and an air inlet duct comprising a filter ~~and an air outlet duct~~, said electric motor comprising a plurality of suspension elements in said body and said electric motor being electrically connected to a socket and a switch supported by a plate with a fuse, said bottom shell and said top shell having means for receiving and holding the air inlet duct with said filter, the air outlet duct, and the plate with said fuse, said socket, and said switch following the overlapping of one of said top shell edge and said bottom shell edge with the other of the top shell edge and said bottom shell edge upon an automated assembly of said pump group with said body, wherein each of said top shell and said bottom shell has a first recess and a slot, said first recess and said slot of said top shell being on a level with said top shell edge, said first recess and said slot of said bottom shell being on a level with said bottom shell edge, said top shell edge being aligned

with said bottom shell edge, said means for receiving and holding said air inlet duct with said filter being provided by said first recess of said top shell joined with said first recess of said second shell when said body is closed to form a lateral lodging to receive the air inlet duct and the air filter, said means for receiving and holding the socket, the switch, and the plate comprising said slot of said top shell and said slot of said bottom shell, said slot of said top shell being joined with said slot of said bottom shell when said body is closed to form a lateral opening that receives and holds said socket, said switch, and said plate for connecting said electric motor to an electric supply source, ~~said top shell~~ said means for receiving and holding said outlet duct comprising a second recess on a top surface ~~thereof~~ of said top shell, said second recess receiving said air outlet duct.

2. (Previously Presented) Operating unit according to claim 1, wherein the air inlet duct and the air outlet duct of the pump group are in planes at right angles to each other.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) Operating unit according to claim 1, wherein said means for receiving and holding the air inlet tube further comprises a first seal [[is]] arranged between said air inlet duct and said first recess in said top shell and said first recess in said bottom shell, and said means for receiving and holding the air outlet tube further comprises a second seal is arranged between said air outlet duct and said second recess.

5. (Currently Amended) Operating unit according to claim 1, wherein a bottom portion of said bottom shell of said body is equipped with a plurality of feet, wherein a protrusion is disposed inside said bottom shell on an axis with one of said feet, said protrusion acting as a support for the head of the pump group, said protrusion extending to rest against a bottom part of said head, said protrusion being aligned with said air outlet duct and said protrusion facing said air outlet duct, wherein a damper element is arranged between said bottom part of said head and said protrusion.

6. (Previously Presented) Operating unit according to claim 1, wherein said filter is tightly fitted in the air inlet duct and has a longitudinal cavity partially obstructed by a pin.

7. (Currently Amended) Operating unit according to claim 1, wherein said filter can be removed from the outside of the body, said filter being accessible using a tool to remove said filter through a filter slot provided in said body and radially oriented to said means for holding and receiving said air inlet duct.

8 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An operating unit to generate a flow of air under pressure in aerosol therapy appliances, the operating unit comprising:

a pump group which includes a head, an electric motor and a fan; and

a body enclosing said pump group and formed by a bottom shell and a top shell, said bottom shell having a bottom shell edge, said top shell having a top shell edge, one of said bottom shell and said top shell being superimposed on to the other one of said bottom shell and said top shell to close said body on a transversal plane, said transversal plane being on a level with said bottom shell edge and said top shell edge, said bottom shell edge and said top shell edge being formed to self-center one of said top shell and said bottom shell with the other one of said top shell and said bottom shell, said head having an air inlet duct comprising a filter and an air outlet duct, said electric motor comprising a plurality of suspension elements in said body and said electric motor being electrically connected to a socket and a switch supported by a plate with a fuse, said bottom shell and said top shell having means for receiving and holding the air inlet duct with said filter, the air outlet duct, and the plate with said fuse, said socket, and said switch following the overlapping of one of said top shell edge and said bottom shell edge with the other of the top shell edge and said bottom shell edge upon an automated assembly of said pump group with said body, wherein said means for receiving and holding said air inlet duct with said filter ~~is lodged in~~ is provided by a side seating in which the air inlet duct with filter is lodged, said side seating being formed by a first recess in said top shell and a first recess in said bottom shell, wherein said means for receiving and holding said air inlet duct with said filter further comprises a first seal [[is]] arranged between said air inlet duct and said first recess in said top shell and said first recess in said bottom shell, [[and]] wherein said means for receiving and holding an air outlet tube is provided by a second seal [[is]] arranged

between said air outlet duct and a hole defined by a second recess in a top portion of the top shell, wherein said air outlet duct is arranged in said hole in said top shell.

12. (Currently Amended) An operating unit to generate a flow of air under pressure in aerosol therapy appliances, the operating unit comprising:

a pump group which includes a head, an electric motor and a fan; and

a body enclosing said pump group and formed by a bottom shell and a top shell, said bottom shell having a bottom shell edge, said top shell having a top shell edge, one of said bottom shell and said top shell being superimposed on to the other one of said bottom shell and said top shell to close said body on a transversal plane, said transversal plane being on a level with said bottom shell edge and said top shell edge, said bottom shell edge and said top shell edge being formed to self-center one of said top shell and said bottom shell with the other one of said top shell and said bottom shell, said head having an air inlet duct comprising a filter and an air outlet duct, said electric motor comprising a plurality of suspension elements in said body and said electric motor being electrically connected to a socket and a switch supported by a plate with a fuse, said bottom shell and said top shell having means for receiving and holding the air inlet duct with said filter, the air outlet duct, and the plate with said fuse, said socket, and said switch following the overlapping of one of said top shell edge and said bottom shell edge with the other of the top shell edge and said bottom shell edge upon an automated assembly of said pump group with said body, wherein a bottom portion of said bottom shell of said body is equipped with a plurality of feet, wherein a protrusion is disposed inside said

bottom shell on an axis with one of said feet, said protrusion acting as a support for the head of the pump group, said protrusion extending to rest against a bottom part of said head, said protrusion being aligned with said air outlet duct and said protrusion facing said air outlet duct, wherein a damper element is arranged between said bottom part of said head and said protrusion.